

The Office of the Inspector General (OIG), Department of Defense (DoD), announced today that on August 21, 2001, Caritas Medical Group, Incorporated (Caritas) agreed to pay \$196,521 to settle allegations under the False Claims Act that Caritas submitted, or caused to be submitted, false claims to Federal health care programs for reimbursement in connection with evaluation and management services.

During a review of certain billings, Caritas discovered inaccurate bills had been submitted during the period 1997 through early 1999 in connection with a particular physician. Caritas discovered that it had inappropriately billed for patient services using higher reimbursement codes for those services than were actually provided, not performed at all, or not documented in the medical records. Learning of the problem, Caritas voluntarily reported the inaccurate bills to the Government to resolve any liabilities resulting from those bills, and immediately took corrective action to resolve the billing problem for the future.